

REMARKS

This is in response to the Office Action mailed on November 01, 2007. Claims 1, 2, and 4-60 were pending in the application, and the Examiner rejected all of the claims. With the present response, claims 1, 26, 42, and 60 are amended, claims 4 and 5 are cancelled, and the remaining claims are unchanged. Consideration and allowance of all pending claims are respectfully solicited in light of the following comments.

On page 14 of the Office Action, the Examiner requests clarification as to whether the focus of the prosecution of the present application is on a subscription/authorization system or a dialogue-based user interface. In response, Applicant submits that embodiments of the present invention are focused on the combination of a dialogue-based user interface and a subscription/authorization system. In particular embodiments are directed to a scenario wherein a user is presented with, through a dialogue-based user interface, an opportunity to purchase access when it is determined that the user is not authorized to utilize an application necessary to complete performance of a task.

For example, as is reflected in FIG. 14 of Applicant's specification, a user dialogues with a non-human entity and requests execution of a task (block 1402). That request is then directed to an application server (block 1404). A corresponding command is directed to an appropriate application (block 1406) and the task is executed (block 1408).

However, if the user does not have access to the appropriate application, the user may be given the opportunity to become authorized to use application. For example, as is reflected in FIG. 13 of Applicant's

specification, a user requests content for which he/she is not authorized (block 1302). The user is presented with an option to extend access accordingly (block 1304). The user is subsequently provided with content only if he/she agrees to the subscription (block 1306).

With the present response, Applicant has amended the pending independent claims to include limitations **from the dependent claims** that reflect Applicant's intent to focus on the combination of a dialogue-based user interface and a subscription/authorization system. **All amendments proposed here are appropriate for entry after final, as they are essentially the relocation of dependent claim features into the independent claims.**

§103 Rejections

Claim 1:

On page 4 of the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. §103 as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent Application Publication Leber et al. 2003/0182391 (hereinafter "Leber") in view of U.S. Patent Application Publication Yairi et al. 2004/0078424 (hereinafter "Yairi"), and further in view of U.S. Patent Application Publication Kay et al. 2003/0074410 (hereinafter "Kay"). Claim 1 has been amended to include the limitations previously recited in dependent claims 4 and 5. On page 8 of the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 4 and 5 under 35 U.S.C. §103 as being obvious over Leber in view of Yairi. Applicant respectfully contends that amended claim 1 is patentable because the limitations previously presented in claims 4 and 5, and now included in claim 1, are not obvious in light of the cited references.

On page 8 of the Office Action, the Examiner states that the former claim 4 limitation, now claim 1 limitation, of "presenting the user with an opportunity to become authorized when the user is not authorized to utilize the application necessary to complete the task" is disclosed in paragraph 40 and in paragraph 49 of Yairi. Applicant respectfully contends that Yairi does not disclose this limitation.

Yairi paragraph 40, along with paragraph 41, discloses offering composite services (i.e. more than one service working together) to a user. The example disclosed in Yairi paragraph 41 is that a user can choose for a stock quote retrieval service and an auto notification service to work together. Applicant fails to see how this could disclose "presenting the user with an opportunity to become authorized when the user is not authorized to utilize the application necessary to complete the task."

Yairi paragraph 49 discloses offering a user help from a human operator when the user is not satisfied with the results from an automated search. Again, Applicant fails to see how this could disclose the claim 4 limitation. Very generally speaking, claim 4 relates to presenting a user an opportunity to become authorized when the user is not authorized. Yairi paragraph 49 discloses a user being able to seek human intervention when he or she is not satisfied with the automated results. These two things are not at all related.

On page 8 of the Office Action, the Examiner states that the former claim 5 limitation, now claim 1 limitation, of "presenting the user with an opportunity to become authorized comprises presenting the user with an opportunity to purchase access" is disclosed in paragraph 40 and in paragraph 49 of Yairi. Applicant respectfully contends that Yairi does not

disclose this limitation.

As discussed under the claim 4 argument, Yairi paragraph 40, along with paragraph 41, discloses offering composite services such as offering a stock quote service and an auto notification service together. Again, as discussed under the claim 4 argument, Yairi paragraph 49 discloses offering a user help from a human operator when the user is not satisfied with the results from an automated search. None of these paragraphs disclose anything similar to the claim 5 limitation of "wherein presenting the user with an opportunity to become authorized comprises presenting the user with an opportunity to purchase access." Yairi does not disclose anything about a user being authorized, about presenting a user an opportunity to become authorized, and Yairi certainly does not disclose anything about an opportunity to purchase access.

For at least these reasons, Applicant respectfully contends that currently amended claim 1 is not obvious in view of the cited references considered independently or in combination. Applicant respectfully requests consideration and allowance of claim 1.

Claim 2:

Applicant respectfully contends that claim 2 is patentable at least based on its dependence upon the patentable independent claim 1. Consideration and allowance of claim 2 is respectfully solicited.

Claims 4-5:

Claim 4 and 5 have been cancelled. As discussed under the claim 1 argument, claim 1 has been amended to include the former claim 4 and 5 limitations.

Claims 6-25:

Applicant respectfully contends that claims 6-25 are patentable at least based on their dependence upon the patentable independent claim 1. Consideration and allowance of claims 6-25 are respectfully solicited.

Claim 26:

On page 4 of the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claim 26 under 35 U.S.C. §103 as being unpatentable under Leber in view of Yairi and Kay. Claim 26 has been amended like claim 1 to include the limitation previously recited in claims 4 and 5. Applicant respectfully contends that claim 26 is patentable for at least the same reasons discussed above in the claim 1 argument. Applicant respectfully requests consideration and allowance of claim 26.

Claims 27-41:

Applicant respectfully contends that claims 27-41 are patentable at least based on their dependence upon the patentable independent claim 26. Consideration and allowance of claims 27-41 are respectfully solicited.

Claim 42:

On page 5 of the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claim 42 under 35 U.S.C. §103 as being unpatentable over Leber in view of Yairi and Kay. Claim 42 has been amended to include the limitation previously recited in its dependent claim 5. The Examiner cites paragraph 40 of the Yairi prior art as the basis of rejection of the claim 42 limitation of "the communication service provider being further configured to present an option to extend access to a service necessary

to complete the task." Paragraph 40 of Yairi, as well as paragraph 49 of Yairi are cited as the basis of rejection of the former claim 5 limitation, now a claim 42 limitation.

As discussed under the previous claim 4 and claim 5 arguments, Yairi paragraph 40, along with paragraph 41, discloses offering composite services such as offering a stock quote service and an auto notification service together. Again, as discussed under the claim 4 and claim 5 arguments, Yairi paragraph 49 discloses offering a user help from a human operator when the user is not satisfied with the results from an automated search. None of these paragraphs disclose anything similar to the claim 5 limitation of "wherein presenting the user with an opportunity to become authorized comprises presenting the user with an opportunity to purchase access." Nor the claim 42 limitation "the communication service provider being further configured to present an option to extend access to a service necessary to complete the task." Yairi does not disclose anything about a user being able to extend access, about presenting a user an opportunity to extend access, and Yairi certainly does not disclose anything about an opportunity to purchase access.

For at least the reasons discussed above, Applicant respectfully contends that currently amended claim 42 is not obvious by Leber, Yairi, or Kay considered independently or in combination. Applicant respectfully requests consideration and allowance of claim 42.

Claims 43-60:

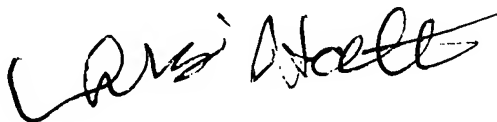
Applicant respectfully contends that claims 43-60 are patentable at least based on their dependence upon the patentable independent claim 42. Consideration and allowance of claims 43-60 are respectfully solicited.

Conclusion

It is respectfully submitted that claims 1, 26, and 42 are patentably distinguishable from the cited references considered independently or in combination. It is also respectfully submitted that claims 2, 6-25, 27-41, and 43-60 are patentable based on their dependence upon patentable independent claims. Accordingly, consideration and allowance of all pending claims are respectfully solicited. The Director is authorized to charge any fee deficiency required by this paper or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 23-1123.

Respectfully submitted,

WESTMAN, CHAMPLIN & KELLY, P.A.



By: _____

Christopher L. Holt, Reg. No. 45,844

Suite 1400

900 Second Avenue South

Minneapolis, Minnesota 55402-3319

Phone: (612) 334-3222 Fax: (612) 334-3312

CLH:JG:rkp